

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the careful examination of the application.

The Examiner has rejected all of the pending claims based upon the Asano reference.

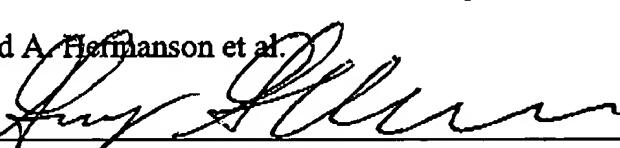
The Examiner correctly suggested in the office action that the claims, as originally filed, included a limitation to the notion of not having direct communication from the cards to an inter-card *system* bus.

The word "system" has now been deleted from the claims. Since the Asano reference includes two cards, 7a and 7b, which are connected by an inter-card bus, it cannot be used to anticipate or render obvious the claims, as amended.

The Applicant believes that when the amendment to the claim is fully considered, it will be clear that the Asano reference does not teach the newly claimed invention; and, therefore, early notification of allowance would be much appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

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